

Madam President, I wish Gale Norton well as she embarks on a difficult assignment, and she will work with the Congress to ensure that we fulfill our land management and trust responsibilities to the American people in a fair, economical, and efficient manner.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

SENATOR SPENCER ABRAHAM TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I supported the nomination of Senator Spencer Abraham as the next Secretary of Energy, and I look forward to working with him in his new position. While I know that Senator Abraham will be facing a host of new issues at the Department of Energy, I welcome his appointment.

I believe that Senator Abraham has a commitment to address the many complicated, intertwining energy, environmental, and economic questions that he will be faced with on a daily basis as Energy Secretary. In recent years, the Department of Energy has been rocked by high profile scandals and security breaches and criticism for failing to address compounding energy policy problems. The Department of Energy has longstanding internal problems regarding agency morale, a complicated system of laboratories, the cleanup of DOE's nuclear complex, and competition between fuel and industry interests. Secretary Abraham will have a defining role in determining the needs and priorities for our national security, energy policy, science and technology, and environmental management.

First and foremost, he will need to work with Congress in the development of a balanced, comprehensive national energy policy. If our ultimate national interests are ever to be achieved, we must address the overarching concerns witnessed by the current price hikes in gasoline, home heating oil, electricity, and natural gas. Though I am certain that, in time, these crises will pass as most crises do, I fear that, as a nation, we will sink back into energy somnolence. The alarm bells are ringing loudly today, and it is time to wake up and address our need for a serious comprehensive national energy strategy. At the same time, a comprehensive energy strategy must also incorporate a strong environmental policy and economic incentives to benefit our nation as a whole.

The new Energy Secretary agreed with me that coal is integral to any na-

tional energy strategy. When I met with him, we discussed Clean Coal Technologies and other research that can utilize many of our domestic energy resources in economically and environmentally sound ways. Since 1985, when I established the Clean Coal Technology initiative with a Congressional authorization of \$750 million, more than \$2.4 billion has been invested in this successful program. Secretary Abraham voiced Administration support for these efforts. By utilizing our nation's knowledge and resources, we can meet our energy demands while also improving the environment.

Additionally, I urged the new Energy Secretary to find ways to address the global climate change challenge. I hope he will continue to support long-standing initiatives that can address climate change as well as find more ways to deploy our advanced technologies in the market, both domestically and internationally. These new technologies and ideas have been paid for by the American people, tested in our laboratories, and demonstrated with the support and assistance of the private sector, and must be deployed if the global community is ever going to seriously tackle the problem of global climate change.

In the coming months, there certainly will be debate over how best to protect the environment, without risking the economic security of our own country. Adopting a commonsense national energy policy that takes advantage of our advanced technologies, while also utilizing our vast energy resources, can be a win-win situation for the environment and the economy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES, COACHES, AND SUPPORTERS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Idahoans who will participate in the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska, this March 4th through 11th. The Special Olympics World Games is an event of Special Olympics, Inc. It is an international competition offered once every two years in Olympic tradition, alternating winter and summer games.

Chris Fonk of Burley and Wendy Newsom of Boise will compete in Alpine skiing. Eric Dille of Burley will be the Alpine skiing alternate. Chad Moe and Lacy Cummings, both of Lewiston, will compete in Nordic skiing. Janet Bush of Mountain Home and Jeff Frost of Pocatello will be the Nordic skiing alternates. April Empey of Blackfoot, Chris Blair of Burley and Dennis Knifong of Boise will compete in snowshoeing.

Snowshoe coach, Terry Kinhead of Burley, and Nordic coach, Manny

Sheibany of Moscow, will also take part in the 2001 World Winter Games. The efforts of Terry, Manny, and so many other coaches, volunteers, and supporters has helped the Idaho Special Olympics program offer the opportunity to benefit through sports training and competition to thousands of people with mental retardation.

In turn, every Special Olympics competition leaves its spectators with a better understanding of people who have mental retardation. Through their spirited participation, we learn that these athletes appreciate challenges and benefit greatly from encouragement. We are shown that excellence is a matter of passion and determination. Most important, we are made to realize that the emotional and spiritual health of people with special needs is largely a reflection of the respect and acceptance they receive in their community at large.

I am very proud of these Idaho athletes, their coaches, and their supporters. Special Olympics enlighten us, and then leave our souls soaring.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. VATTES

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John A. Vattes, Staff Accountant for the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, upon his retirement.

John, who received two Associate Degrees from Hesser College, has faithfully served the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and the surrounding community for many years. In addition to holding the position of Staff Accountant at the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, he has also been the Supervisor of Large Power Billing for Public Service Company of New Hampshire for thirty years. I applaud his hard work and dedication in these positions.

In addition to giving to the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, John worked tirelessly on New Hampshire political campaigns for former U.S. Senator Gordon J. Humphrey. John has also been a trusted and longtime friend to me for my Congressional elections since the beginning of my political career. He has worked diligently on behalf of New Hampshire political candidates on the local, state and federal levels for over two decades.

A veteran of the Korean conflict, Vattes served New Hampshire and his country with honor as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He has worked selflessly within his local community for the South Little League in Manchester for 5 years as player agent and has served as a member of the Knights of Columbus.

John Vattes is truly an extraordinary individual and loyal friend. He has devoted countless hours as a volunteer in his community while still finding time for his family. He and Doty,

his wife of 40 years, are the proud parents of four children: Wendy, Lori, Mark and Shane. John enjoys leisure time pursuing his personal hobbies which include politics, reading, chess, exercising and traveling.

I commend John Vattes and wish him the best upon his retirement. It has been a pleasure to work with him in the years past, and it is truly an honor to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-418. A communication from the Trial Attorney of the Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Power Brake Regulations: Freight Power Brake Revisions" (RIN2130-AB16) received on January 8, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-419. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relating to smokeless tobacco health education for the years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-420. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technology Opportunities Program" (RIN0660-ZA06) received on January 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-421. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska—Removal of Groundfish Closure (to allow small-scale fixed-gear Pacific cod fisheries to continue for a limited time period)" (RIN0648-AO44) received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-422. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, De-

partment of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Large Coastal, Pelagic, and Small Coastal Shark Species, Fishing Season Notification" (I.D. 111400A) received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-423. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Implementation of ICCAT Recommendations" (RIN0648-AN52) received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-424. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Adjustment to the 2000 Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Commercial Quotas" received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-425. A communication from the Trial Attorney for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criminal Penalty Safe Harbor Provision" (RIN2127-AI24) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-426. A communication from the Trial Attorney for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting the Sale or Lease of Defective of Noncompliant Tires" (RIN2127-AI23) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-427. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Memorial Bridge, across the Intercoastal Waterway, mile 830.6, Volusia County, Daytona Beach, FL (CGD07-00-135)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0006)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-428. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Lower Grand River, LA (CGD08-00-032)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0005)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-429. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois (CGD08-00-029)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0004)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-430. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois (CGD08-00-033)" ((RIN2115-

AE47)(2001-0007)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-431. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regatta Regulations; Hillsborough Bay, Tampa, Florida (CGD07-00-124)" ((RIN2115-AE46)(2001-0002)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-432. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Great Egg Harbor Bay, New Jersey (CGD05-00-055)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0008)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-433. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allowing Alternative Source to Incandescent Light in Private Aids to Navigation (USG-2000-7466)" ((RIN2115-AF98)(2001-0001)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-434. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Cortez Bridge (SR 684), across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile 87.4 Sarasota County, Cortez, FL (CGD07-00-132)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0002)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-435. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations; Siesta Key Bridge, across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile 71.6, Sarasota County, Florida (CGD07-00-133)" ((RIN2115-AE47)(2001-0003)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-436. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Iliamna, Alaska" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0023)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-437. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Albia, Iowa" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0021)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-438. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amend Legal Description of Jet Route J-501" (RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0022)) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.